

# Quanta Resources Corporation

163 River Road

Edgewater, Bergen County

## A Citizen's Guide to the July 2002 Public Health Assessment

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) has developed a Public Health Assessment on the Quanta Resources Corporation site located in Edgewater, Bergen County. The purpose of the Public Health Assessment is to determine if people are (or were) exposed to contamination from the site at levels that can be harmful to their health. A Public Comment Draft of the Public Health Assessment is now available so that citizens may provide comments and additional concerns. This Citizen's Guide is a summary of the July 10, 2002 Public Health Assessment. For a copy of the complete document please contact one of the agencies listed on the back of this Citizen's Guide.

### *Where is the Quanta Resources Corporation site located?*

The Quanta Resources Corporation site is located at 163 River Road in Edgewater, Bergen County. It is bordered by "old" River Road, the former Celotex Industrial Park, the former Spencer Kellogg property, and the Hudson River. "New" River Road cuts through the Quanta property. Much of the area surrounding the Quanta site is being redeveloped for residential and commercial use.

### *What is the history of contamination of the Quanta site?*

From 1896 through 1974, a coal tar distillation plant was housed on the current Quanta site and a portion of the former Celotex property. Beginning in 1974, the site was used for the recycling of waste oil. The Quanta Resources Corporation leased the site in 1980 for the storage, reprocessing, reclamation and recovery of waste oil. The waste oil was stored in above ground and underground storage tanks, with a total capacity of over nine million gallons. Rain water was able to enter the above ground tanks, causing overflows. Leaks and spills also occurred due to breaks in the tank systems. The site was frequently flooded by the Hudson River, causing contamination of the waterway.

### *What contaminants are presently on the site?*

Soil is contaminated with metals, including arsenic, chromium and lead, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Hudson River sediments contain the same contaminants.



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***Is there contamination***

***off-site?***

Off-site soil and sediment samples had contaminant levels comparable to and sometimes higher than those detected on the Quanta site.

***Are people exposed to contamination at the Quanta site?***

There are presently no apparent completed human exposure pathways to contamination on the Quanta site. The site is fenced and closed to the public, and portions of it are paved over. There may be occasional trespassing on the site, but these occurrences are not likely to result in exposures at levels that are harmful to health. However, potential exposures include dermal contact or accidental ingestion of contaminated soils and river sediments, which may occur during future remediation or construction. Also, odors may indicate air contamination.

***What does the NJDHSS conclude about the site?***

The NJDHSS concludes that the site is an ***Indeterminate Public Health Hazard***. This is because, at present, there are no apparent completed human exposure pathways at the site. However, as site conditions change (for example, if the site is developed), and as additional data become available, the hazard category will be reconsidered.

***What are the NJDHSS's recommendations?***

Neighboring properties are contaminated at levels similar to and higher than the Quanta site. Environmental regulatory agencies should ensure that these properties are investigated and, if necessary, remediated to protect the health of workers, residents, and the general public. The Palisades Child Care Center should be more thoroughly evaluated under worst case exposure scenarios, as well as under normal operating conditions. Also, environmental monitoring of other off-site businesses and residences should be considered to ensure that there are no completed human exposure pathways.

***Where can more information about this site or other environmental health issues be found?***

Copies of the Public Health Assessment may be found at:  
Edgewater Board of Health  
Community Center  
1167 River Road  
Edgewater, NJ

Bergen County Department of Health Services  
327 Ridgewood Avenue  
Paramus, NJ 07652-4895

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services  
Consumer and Environmental Health Services  
PO Box 369  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0369  
(609) 588-3120  
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